

REMARKS

Status Of Application

Claims 1, 3-6, 9-11, and 14-20 were pending in the application. By this amendment, claim 16 is canceled. Thus, the status of the claims is as follows:

Claim 14 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,184,853 B1 to Hebiguchi et al. ("Hebiguchi") taken with U.S. Patent No. 5,091,557 to Nagai et al. ("Nagai") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,172,107 to Kanno et al. ("Kanno"), and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,501,454 B1 to Ozawa et al. ("Ozawa") taken with U.S. Patent No. 6,052,103 to Fujiwara et al. ("Fujiwara") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,814,378 to Onshi et al. ("Onshi").

Claims 1, 3-6, 9-11, 15, and 17-20 are allowed

Claim Amendments

Claim 14 has been amended to depend from claim 1 and to remove some of the prior limitations. These changes do not introduce any new matter.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Rejection

The rejection of claim 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Hebiguchi taken with Nagai in view of Kanno, and further in view of Ozawa taken with Fujiwara in view of Onshi, is respectfully traversed based on the following.

Claim 14 has been amended to depend from allowed claim 1. As claim 1 is allowed, claim 14 is also allowable due to its dependence therefrom.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claim 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hebiguchi taken with Nagai in view of

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Kanno, and further in view of Ozawa taken with Fujiwara in view of Onshi, be reconsidered and withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Wherefore, in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, this application is considered to be in condition for allowance, and an early reconsideration and a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

This Amendment does not increase the number of independent claims, does not increase the total number of claims, and does not present any multiple dependency claims. Accordingly, no fee based on the number or type of claims is currently due. However, if a fee, other than the issue fee, is due, please charge this fee to Sidley Austin LLP Deposit Account No. 18-1260.

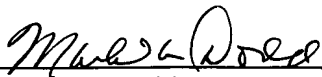
If an extension of time is required to enable this document to be timely filed and there is no separate Petition for Extension of Time filed herewith, this document is to be construed as also constituting a Petition for Extension of Time Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) for a period of time sufficient to enable this document to be timely filed.

Any other fee required for such Petition for Extension of Time and any other fee required by this document pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17, other than the issue fee,

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Respectfully submitted,

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